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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/826,250      | 04/04/2001  | Yasser Alsafadi      | US 010119           | 2675             |

7590 07/29/2002

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EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,250

Applicant(s)

ALSAFADI ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel St.Cyr

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2 "product-type" should be --product--. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber et al, US Patent No. 5,715,555, in view of 5,982,445.

Reber et al disclose a smart laundry system and methods therefore comprising: a plurality of material items 20, the material items 20 may be wearable items such as articles of clothing, garments, uniforms, or gloves, or non-wearable items such as drapes, curtains, towels, mops, or mats, the laundry system is utilized to wash, dry, sort, and/or fold the material items 20; each of

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the material items 20 has an electronic tag 22 attached thereto, the electronic tag 22 can be in a generic form for affixing to a variety of different material items or programmed to store identification information for the material item 20, laundering instructions, water processing instructions, and a count indicative of a number of times the material item 20 has been laundered, the laundering instructions can include washing instructions, drying instructions, folding instructions, and sorting instructions, the washing machine 26 is controlled by a controller 32, the drying machine is controlled by a controller 34, and the automatic folding and sorting machine is controlled by a controller 36, each controller 32, 34, and 36 provides a number of controls having a number of control positions or settings (see figure 1; col. 3, line 18+).

Reber et al fail to disclose or fairly suggest a client/server relationship wherein the washing machine can communicate to remote server to obtained washing machine instruction using XML type of language.

Eyer et al disclose a hypertext markup language protocol for television display and control, which uses satellite 125 for broadcasting signals from a remote server to the user's antenna 155, wherein the system can be used for non-television function and/or appliance to control the appliance using HTML/HTVP display screen (see col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 13).

In view Eyer et al's teachings, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills at the time the invention was made to incorporate the remote client/server relationship in the system of Reber et al for providing remote communication to manufacturer's site to obtain washing machine instruction. Such modification would ensure the most updated instruction in the art to accomplish the optimum result from the washing machine and with respect to using

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XML protocol, it is functionally equivalent as the HTML/HTVP protocol disclosed above.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Reber et al.

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yasutake et al, US patent No. 5,644,936, disclose a washing machine control device and washing machine control system. 6,377,799, discloses a firmware protocol parser.

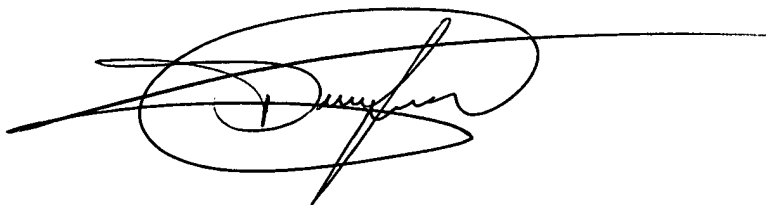
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Daniel St.Cyr  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

DS  
July 27, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel St.Cyr', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.